

6 ROUTINE POSTPARTUM CARE

6.2 CARE OF THE MOTHER ON THE POSTNATAL WARD

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6.2.1 Care on admission to the ward
Section B
Clinical Guidelines
King Edward Memorial Hospital
Perth Western Australia

6.2.1 CARE ON ADMISSION TO THE WARD

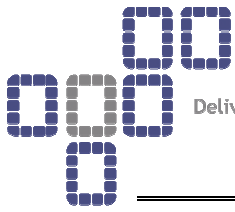
KEY POINT

This procedure encompasses the care provided to women who have had a normal labour, birth and immediate postpartum period.

AIMS

1. To assess maternal condition
2. To identify factors which may influence postpartum care of the woman
3. To determine the level of care the woman requires.
4. To make the woman feel welcome and at ease

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome woman and support person into the ward and introduce self. Note time of arrival to ward. 	<p>The literature suggests that admission is part of the process of care for the woman and not a procedure in itself.¹ It is the time when the relationship between the woman and midwife begins and it provides the opportunity for the midwife to:¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allay the woman's anxiety² • establish an effective means of communication • establish a collaborative relationship based on respect and understanding • make an initial assessment of the woman
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Assist the woman onto the bed 3. Check with the escorting midwife that the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • woman's identification band matches her medical record • infant's identification bands match the woman's band. 	<p>Confirms the identification of the woman and her infant and ensures transfer of the correct medical records.</p>



PROCEDURE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- | | |
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| <p>4. Assess and record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• uterine tone, position and level• lochia – amount, consistency and colour• condition of perineum• condition of bladder• level of pain or discomfort and need for analgesia | <p>Checks the status of the woman on arrival to the ward assessing the need for any immediate action. In addition, a baseline set of observations is obtained.</p> |
| <p>5. If the above observations are within normal limits receive handover from the transferring midwife regarding the woman's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• obstetric, medical, surgical or psychological history;• need for a Kleihauer if she has a Rhesus negative blood group• risk factors that may lead to a complicated postpartum recovery;• type, time and outcome of the birth and third stage;• observations and condition since the birth;• specific postpartum instructions and• specific postpartum preferences which she may have identified in her birth plan. | <p>Adequate handover is necessary for continuity of care and to individualise care plans to suit the woman's needs.</p> |
| <p>6. Explain to the mother the importance of keeping her baby safe while in hospital including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The basic hospital security procedures,• Not to give her baby to anyone without an ID badge,• Not leaving the baby unattended in the room or ward nursery,• Not provide information to unknown persons regarding her personal details, such as the ward location, name of baby etc.• Provide clear instruction on the responsibilities of the woman and staff if leaving the ward area for other than scheduled medical appointments. | <p>Provide the brochure 'Keeping your baby safe in Hospital' if the mother does not already have a copy.</p> |

